

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

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PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

12.11.2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference
L17824WO

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/GB 03/04827International filing date (day/month/year)
07.11.2003Priority date (day/month/year)
08.11.2002

Applicant
NMI SAFETY SYSTEMS LTD ET AL

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. **REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filling translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the International
preliminary examining authority:



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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference L17824WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/GB 03/04827	International filing date (day/month/year) 07.11.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 08.11.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B60N2/24		
Applicant NMI SAFETY SYSTEMS LTD ET AL		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
- These annexes consist of a total of 4 sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
- I Basis of the opinion
 - II Priority
 - III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV Lack of unity of invention
 - V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI Certain documents cited
 - VII Certain defects in the International application
 - VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 28.05.2004	Date of completion of this report 12.11.2004
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patenlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Gatti, C Telephone No. +31 70 340-3464



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/04827

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-14 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-24 received on 22.04.2004 with letter of 22.04.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/6-6/6 as originally filed

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the International search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).
(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-24
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-24
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-24
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations**see separate sheet**

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Re Item V**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

- 1 Reference is made to the following document/s:

D1: US-A-6 149 528 (CHADWICK JOSEPH O ET AL) 21 November 2000

D2: GB-A-2 176 154 (UNWIN C N LTD) 17 December 1986

- 2 Independent claim 1

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1 and shows a fitting for a vehicle seat with a squab movable from a forward projecting position to spaced apart position and a backrest movable from a rearward position to a forward position.

- 2.1 The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known fitting for a vehicle seat in that, when the squab is spaced apart, the backrest is moved forward, and not backward, as described in D1.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

- 2.2 The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as providing a safe system to block the backrest of a wheelchair, after having introduced it into the space left empty by moving away the squab.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

the feature of moving forward the backrest of the vehicle and providing by that a stable surface for coupling a seat belt is neither known nor rendered obvious by the available Prior Art.

- 3 Independent claim 11

The document D2 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 11 and shows a fitting for a vehicle seat with support holding a squab movable from a forward projecting position to spaced apart position and a

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backrest, the support being movable laterally.

- 3.1 The subject-matter of claim 11 differs from this known fitting for a vehicle seat in that the support moves on rollers, while in D1 the support rotates about a vertical shaft.

The subject-matter of claim 11 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

- 3.2 The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as providing an easy system to move the support.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 11 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

the feature of moving laterally on rollers is neither known nor rendered obvious by the available Prior Art.

4 Independent claim 18

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 18 and shows a fitting for a vehicle seat with a backrest relatively broad at the top and relatively narrow at a lower position.

- 4.1 The subject-matter of claim 18 differs from this known fitting for a vehicle seat in that the shape of the backrest allows to fit the handles of a wheelchair in the narrower part.

The subject-matter of claim 18 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

- 4.2 The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as providing a simple system to easily fit a wheelchair in front of the backrest without wasting any available space.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 18 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

the feature of narrowing the backrest to provide space for the handles of a wheelchair is neither known nor rendered obvious by the available Prior Art.

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- 5 Claims 2-10, 12-17, and 19-24 are dependent either on claim 1, 11, or 18 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

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JC14 Rec'd PCT/PTO 04 MAY 2005

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CLAIMS:

- 5 1. A fitting for a motor vehicle, the fitting comprising a support configured to be secured to the floor of the vehicle, the support being provided with a seat squab, and being provided with a seat back mounting and backrest, the squab being moveable from an initial position in which the squab projects forwardly from the support to a position in which the squab does not obstruct the space in front of the backrest, the backrest being mounted to the seat back mounting by a mechanism which enables the backrest to be moved from an initial rearward position to a forward position in which the backrest has been moved forwardly and is thus spaced from the seat back mounting, there being at least one seat belt mounted on the fitting and passing through a guide at the top of the backrest.
- 10 15 2. A fitting according to Claim 1, wherin the squab is provided with two mounting fingers and two mounting lugs, the support being provided with formations to receive the fingers and hooks to engage the lugs to removably mount the seat squab.
- 20 25 3. A fitting according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the mechanism connecting the backrest to the seat back mounting incorporates pivotal links.
4. A fitting according to Claim 3, wherein the backrest is connected to the seat back mounting by means of two upper pivotal links and two lower pivotal links, there being one upper and one lower pivotal link to one side of the seat back mounting and another upper and another lower pivot link to the other side of the seat back mounting.

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5. A fitting according to Claim 4, wherein each pivotal link comprises two straight arms which are pivotally interconnected.
- 5 6. A fitting according to any one Claims 1 to 5, wherein the mechanism is an over-dead-centre mechanism.
- 10 7. A fitting according to Claim 6, wherein the over dead centre mechanism comprises a drive bar passing through slots in two spaced apart plates provided on the backrest, the drive bar being mounted on at least one arm which is pivotally mounted to the mounting frame, so that the drive bar executes an arcuate movement.
- 15 8. A fitting according to Claim 7, wherein a handle is provided to move the said pivotally mounted arm.
9. A fitting according to any one of Claims 1 to 7 wherein a motor is provided which is actuatable to move the backrest forwardly.
- 20 10. A fitting according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein, when in the forward position, the backrest can pivot about a horizontal axis.
11. A fitting for a motor vehicle, the fitting comprising a support, the support being provided with a squab and a backrest to form a seat, the squab being moveable from an initial position in which the squab projects forwardly from the support to a position in which the squab does not obstruct the space in front of the backrest, the support being mounted on rollers for lateral movement.

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12. A fitting according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein the support incorporates a base plate, the base plate being mounted on a platform for lateral movement.

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13. A fitting according to Claim 12, wherein the base plate is provided with at least one projection extending downwardly to engage with at least one channel formed in the platform.

10 14. A fitting according to Claim 13, wherein a band is provided associated with the platform to extend over the or each channel, the or each band extending from the base plate to a guide provided at one end of the respective channel, then passing through a passage extending under the platform, before passing a guide at the other end of the channel and extending back to the other 15 side of the base plate.

15. A fitting according to any one of Claims 12 to 14, wherein a clamp is provided to clamp the base plate in position.

20 16. A fitting according to any one Claims 12 to 15, wherein a motor arrangement is provided to drive the base plate relative to the platform.

17. A fitting according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein the backrest has a relatively wide upper portion and a relatively narrow lower 25 portion.

18. A fitting for a motor vehicle, for use with a wheelchair, the fitting comprising a support supporting a backrest, the backrest being relatively broad at the top and being relatively narrow at a lower position, to enable the handles

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of a wheelchair to be accommodated on either side of the narrow part of the backrest, wherein at least one seat belt is provided mounted on the fitting and passing through a guide at the top of the backrest.

- 5 19. A fitting according to Claim 18 wherein the space in front of the backrest is unobstructed.
20. A fitting according to Claim 18 or 19 wherein a removable seat squab is provided which can be mounted in position adjacent the backrest to form a seat.
- 10 21. A fitting according to any one of Claims 18 to 20 wherein at least two seat belts are provided mounted on the fitting each passing through a respective guide at the top of the backrest.
- 15 22. A fitting according to any one of Claims 18 to 21 wherein the backrest is mounted on a seat back mounting, and a mechanism is provided to move the backrest forwardly from an initial rearward position to a forward position in which the backrest is spaced from the seat back mounting.
- 20 23. A fitting according to Claim 1 or any Claim dependent thereon, or Claim 22 wherein the seat back mounting is mounted to the support by a yieldable connection, adapted to yield when subjected to a force in excess of a predetermined force.
- 25 24. A fitting according to Claim 23, wherein the upper part of the support is a torsion plate and the lower part of the seat back mounting frame is a torsion plate, the torsion plates being interconnected and forming the yieldable connection.

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